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PAMPHLET DESCRIBING M1166

**Records of the
Northern Superintendency
of Indian Affairs
1851-1876**



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WASHINGTON: 1986

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Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs

Record Group 75

RECORDS OF THE
NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY
OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
1861-1876

The bound and unbound records of the Northern Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1851-76, are reproduced on the 35 rolls of this microfilm publication. These records are chiefly the correspondence, reports, procedural issuances, financial documents, licenses, and various other records that were either created by or received by the Superintendent at his headquarters in the field. They document the management of Indian affairs within the Superintendency. Also included are some records that were inherited by the Superintendency from agencies under its jurisdiction. These consist of 18 letters for 1849-50 relating to the tribes who came under Green Bay Subagency and one volume of copies of letters sent from the Winnebago Agency during various periods from 1846-73. All of these records are a part of the records of the National Archives of the United States designated as Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group (RG) 75.

Administrative History

From 1789 to 1824 Indian affairs were administered by the Office of the Secretary of War. On March 11, 1824, the Office of Indian Affairs was established within the War Department. The Office was transferred to the newly created Department of the Interior in 1849, where it has since remained. It was renamed the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1947.

The two principal types of field jurisdictions of the Office of Indian Affairs during the 19th century were superintendencies and agencies. Superintendencies' jurisdictions encompassed Territories or States or more extensive areas, and each was headed by a superintendent with general responsibility for Indian affairs, who supervised agencies and subagencies under his jurisdiction. Congress restricted the number of superintendencies and agencies. The President could discontinue or transfer agencies, but he was not authorized by law to establish additional agencies. The restrictions on the number of agencies by Congress were circumvented by the practice of establishing subagencies, which could be done without congressional approval.

Superintendents' duties included supervision of relations between tribes and between Indians and non-Indians in the areas under their jurisdictions. Supervision of the conduct, accounts, and performance of Indian agents responsible to them; communication of instructions from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to agents; and the granting of leave to agents were a part of those duties. It was also common practice for superintendents to receive contract bids and proposals from private individuals, enter into contracts with them, and issue annuities to Indians. Agents were directly responsible for the affairs of one or more

tribes, and they usually lived within a tribal area. Until about 1878 most agents were accountable to a superintendent, although some reported directly to the Office of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. Subagents usually functioned as assistants to a full agent. Many subagents eventually achieved agent status, although they generally were assigned to less important agencies and received less salary.

The Northern Superintendency was established in 1851 as a part of the general reorganization of the field service under an act of February 27, 1851 (9 Stat. 574). It superseded the Michigan Superintendency, which was abolished in 1851, and assumed some responsibilities of the former Wisconsin Superintendency, which had been discontinued in 1848. From the Michigan Superintendency it inherited the Mackinac Agency, which, with the assistance of the Sault Ste. Marie Subagency, was in charge of the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi tribes living in Michigan. From the Wisconsin Superintendency it inherited the Green Bay Subagency, which had jurisdiction over the Menominee, Oneida, and Stockbridge tribes living in Wisconsin and had reported directly to the Office of Indian Affairs following the termination of the Wisconsin Superintendency. The Northern Superintendency also assumed responsibility for some Potawatomi and other Indians in Wisconsin who had not previously been assigned to an agency.

From its establishment to 1856, the Northern Superintendency had its headquarters in Wisconsin--first in Green Bay, then Sheboygan, and finally, from 1853, in Milwaukee. The Superintendents actually had little contact with Indian affairs in Michigan because the Mackinac Agency, into which the Sault Ste. Marie Subagency was merged in 1852, usually reported directly to the Office of Indian Affairs in Washington.

From 1856 to 1865 the Northern Superintendency was headquartered in St. Paul, Minn. The move from Milwaukee was ordered by the President in 1856, when the Minnesota Superintendency was discontinued and its agencies--St. Peters, Winnebago, and Chippewa--were transferred to the Northern Superintendency. Because the Northern Superintendent continued to supervise the Green Bay Agency, he alternated his residence between St. Paul and Milwaukee until 1857 when the Green Bay Agency became independent, its agent reporting directly to the Office of Indian Affairs. In 1858 the La Pointe Agency for the Chippewa of Lake Superior in Minnesota and Wisconsin was established under the Northern Superintendency. These Indians had previously been under the jurisdiction of the Mackinac Agency in Michigan. With the addition of the La Pointe Agency the Northern Superintendency was responsible for the Indians in Minnesota: the Mississippi Sioux (St. Peters); the Pillager, Lake Winibigoshish, and Mississippi bands of Chippewa (Chippewa); the Winnebago (Winnebago); and the Lake Superior Chippewa (La Pointe).

In 1863, as a result of an uprising of the Sioux during the previous year, many of the Sioux and all of the Winnebago Indians were moved from Minnesota to adjacent reserves on the Missouri River near the mouth of Crow Creek within the boundaries of the Dakota Superintendency. The Winnebago Agency was removed to Crow Creek to supervise them, but the agent continued to report to the Northern Superintendency instead of the Dakota Superintendency. By 1865 most of the Winnebago had abandoned the Crow Creek area to settle on part of the Omaha Indian Reserve in eastern Nebraska, and the Winnebago Agency was also moved from Crow Creek to this new location. The St. Peters agent was assigned to the Sioux Indians at Crow Creek, and his agency was transferred from the Northern Superintendency to the Dakota Superintendency in 1865.

From 1865 until its termination in 1876, the Northern Superintendency was headquartered in Omaha, Nebr. The move from St. Paul to Omaha was part of a complete reorganization of the Superintendency in 1865. The Northern Superintendency retained jurisdiction over the Winnebago Agency that had moved to Nebraska, but the Chippewa and La Pointe Agencies became independent, the agents reporting directly to the Office of Indian Affairs. Five agencies were transferred from the Central to the Northern Superintendency: Omaha (Omaha), Pawnee (Pawnee), Otoe (Oto and Missouri), Great Nemaha (Sauk, Fox of Missouri and Iowa), and Upper Platte (Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Sioux). In 1866 the St. Peters Agency, now known as the Santee Sioux or Santee Agency, returned to the jurisdiction of the Northern Superintendency when the agency and the Sioux were moved to Nebraska from Dakota Territory.

Gradually, the Northern Superintendency was reduced in size. The Upper Platte Agency was moved to Dakota in 1868, and in June 1869 it was transferred to the Dakota Superintendency and renamed the Whetstone Agency. In 1875 the Pawnee Indians moved from Nebraska to Indian Territory, and in 1876 the Pawnee Agency was placed under the Central Superintendency. When the Northern Superintendency was discontinued on June 30, 1876, the Otoe, Omaha, Great Nemaha, Winnebago, and the Santee Sioux agents became independent, reporting directly to the Office of Indian Affairs.

Records Description

The records of the Northern Superintendency covers almost all aspects of Indian administration within its jurisdiction. There are documents relating to recommendations for appointments in the Indian Service, resignations, oaths of office, and bonds of employees in Indian Service; negotiations and enforcement of Indian treaties; Indian councils, Indian delegations and disturbances between Indians and non-Indians; hostilities and related military operations; enforcement of Federal laws and

regulations; intrusions on Indian lands; land surveys; bounty land and land scrip; land allotments; deeds to Indian property; Indian removal; annuities and other payments; purchase and transport of goods and supplies; traders' licenses and applications; liquor traffic; medical treatment; construction and repair of buildings; location of agencies, missionaries, and schools; school curriculums and statistics; school employees; population of agencies; charges against and removal of agents; instructions for agents; agents' reports; superintendents' annual reports; depredation claims; and accounts, bids, contracts, and proposals.

Most of the correspondence of the Superintendency was conducted with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and with agents under the superintendency. Included with the correspondence with the Commissioner are letters from his Chief Clerk, who sometimes functioned as Acting Commissioner; letters from the Secretary of the Interior, various letters forwarded by endorsement; circulars; and a few drafts of letters sent by the Superintendent to the Commissioner. Among the letters received from agents are letters from acting agents, agency clerks, and communications from Indians; agents' annual, monthly, and special reports; reports from agency employees; statistical reports; reports of changes of employees; resignations of employees; lists of pupils; lists of medical supplies, annuities, goods, and property; contracts; affidavits; and estimates of funds.

The Superintendent also corresponded with other superintendents, military post commanders, the Second Auditor and other Treasury Department officers, various Federal and State officials, traders, contractors, business firms, attorneys, missionaries, teachers and other agency employees, and private individuals.

Fourteen series of records of the Northern Superintendency are reproduced in this publication. The series descriptions furnished below are in the order in which the records are filmed in the publication. The appropriate roll number(s) precedes each series description.

1. Correspondence, 1851-56 (rolls 1-2). Handwritten copies of letters received and sent, arranged chronologically in three volumes, the first two of which contain a register.

2. Registers ("Statements") of Letters Received From and Letters Sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1865-66 (roll 3). A register for letters received, June 28, 1865-February 13, 1866; for letters received, June 27, 1865-September 24, 1866; and for letters sent, July 5, 1865-November 21, 1865, all three in one volume. The entries are arranged chronologically (some by date that the letter was received rather than by date of letter) and most of them give the surname and the address of the writer and the subject matter of the letter. The letters registered are in series 3 and 7.

3. Letters Received, 1852-Sept. 28, 1871 (rolls 3-10). Original and unbound letters received by the Superintendents. Letters are arranged by year, thereunder by source, and thereunder by date of letter. Source is divided into three parts: Commissioner of Indian Affairs; Agencies, in alphabetical order; and Miscellaneous. There are only a few letters for the period 1861-65; the bulk is for the period 1865-71.

4. Letters Received, Oct. 1, 1871-76 (rolls 11-16). Original and unbound letters received during Supt. Barclay White's administration. Letters are arranged by year; thereunder alphabetically by name of sender, either surname of agent or name of company or business; and thereunder chronologically. If there are enclosures to a letter, (related correspondence, agents' reports, etc.) they are filed with the cover letter, except that reports by or about employees that were not certified and signed by the supervising agents are filed under the surnames of the employees.

5. Letters Sent, 1857-61 (roll 17). One volume of handwritten copies of letters sent by the Superintendent, arranged chronologically. Additional letters sent for 1857-61 are described in series 10 below.

6. Registers of Letters Sent, 1869-75 (roll 17). Five volumes serve as guides to most of the copies of letters sent described in series 7 and 8 below. Two volumes for 1869-70 cover the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the agents and others, and two volumes for 1871-73 provide similar coverage. A fifth volume covers the Commissioner, 1873-75, and the agents and others, 1873-74. Entries for letters to the Commissioner are arranged by jurisdictions (the superintendency and each of the agencies) to which they relate and thereunder chronologically. Those to the agents are arranged by the name of the agency and thereunder chronologically, and those to other persons are arranged chronologically in separate sections. Beginning in 1874 letters sent to agents were copied in indexed press copy books (described in series 9 below).

7. Letters Sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1865-76 (rolls 18-19). Four volumes of handwritten copies of letters to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with a few letters to other Washington officials. Arranged chronologically. Except for a few drafts of letters sent filed in series 10 below, no copies of letters sent to the Commissioner have been found for May 1861 through July 1865.

8. Letters Sent to Agents and Various Persons, 1865-74 (rolls 20-21). Three volumes of handwritten copies arranged chronologically. The registers to these letters are described in series 6. No copies of letters sent have been found for May 1861 through July 1865 except those filed in series 10.

9. Letters Sent to Agents and Various Persons, 1874-76 (rolls 22-23). Two volumes of press copies arranged chronologically. Each volume contains an alphabetical index to surnames of addressees.

10. Administrative Records, 1849-76 (rolls 23-34). Arranged chronologically by year and thereunder generally by type of record, usually in the following order: drafts and unbound copies of letters sent, vouchers, receipts, invoices, bills of lading, estimates, bids, contracts, statements of funds remitted, abstracts of disbursements, property returns, Treasury Department notices, affidavits, licenses, annual reports, school reports, rosters, reports concerning employees, applications of Indians for credit from traders, circulars, schedules, claims, and other records. The letters inherited from the Green Bay Agency are included on roll 23. These records generally were maintained in separate files apart from the correspondence, but some of the same types of records are interfiled with the letters received, particularly for the 1850's and 1860's. In such instances, the documents were forwarded to the Superintendent by a transmittal letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs or an agent, and they were filed as enclosures to the letters.

Because the documents in this series are so diverse, they are arranged within a given year generally by type of record and thereunder in one or more of the following ways: (a) some records, such as bills of lading, are arranged alphabetically by surname of agent and thereunder chronologically; (b) statements of funds and claims are arranged in numerical or alphabetical sequences by file notations appearing on the documents; (c) drafts and copies of letters sent are arranged chronologically; and (d) records, closely related in content, when few in number for a given year, often are grouped together, regardless of type. Examples are proposals, bids, and contracts and abstracts, invoices, and vouchers. Whenever possible, receipts are filed with related bills of lading and vouchers with related abstracts.

11. Miscellaneous Accounting Records, 1851-55 (roll 34). One volume containing five types of records arranged in the order listed below and thereunder for the most part chronologically. The records are copies of vouchers, 1851; statements of accounts current, 1852-53; registers of vouchers, 1851-53; abstracts of disbursements and statements of accounts current, 1853-55; and rosters of employees, 1852.

12. Statements of Receipts and Disbursements and Abstracts of Disbursements, 1866-68 (roll 34). One volume containing general statements of receipts of funds and disbursements. The entries for receipts of funds and for disbursements are on adjoining pages and are arranged chronologically. Most of these entries show an assigned number, the name of the tribe or agency, and the quarterly period in which the transaction transpired.

For some of the quarters, there are also separate abstracts of disbursements for the superintendency, individual tribes, and agencies.

13. Correspondence and Related Records Concerning the Pursuit of Ink-pa-duta and His Band, 1857-59 (roll 35). Correspondence, schedules of claims, claims, receipts, and vouchers, arranged chronologically by year and thereunder for the most part by date of document. The claims filed in 1858, which are in this group of records, are an exception to this arrangement pattern. They are arranged in two groups, those that were recommended and those that were not. Thereunder they are arranged numerically by assigned numbers. Claims for some of the numbers are missing.

Ink-pa-duta, a renegade Sioux Indian, and his band were responsible for the murders of white settlers in the vicinity of Spirit Lake, Iowa, and Jackson (later Springfield), Minn. The records relate primarily to the unsuccessful attempt to capture Ink-pa-duta and include claims by the participants in the expedition.

14. Letters Sent From the Winnebago Agency, 1846, 1848, 1851-52, 1856-62, 1865-66, and 1873 (roll 35). One volume of handwritten copies arranged chronologically. Entries for the period 1851-52 consist of financial statements rather than letters and are found in the back of the volume.

Related Records

The records in this publication make up the largest single body of documents relating to the Northern Superintendency, but many related records are disbursed throughout other series of Bureau of Indian Affairs records that have been reproduced on microfilm. The most readily identifiable are the letters received by the Bureau relating to the Northern Superintendency and its component agencies that are reproduced as part of *Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1880*, M234. Additional related records available on microfilm include *Records of the Office of Indian Affairs, Registers of Letters Received, 1824-1880*, M18; *Letters Sent by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1882*, M21; *Report Books of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1838-85*, M348; *Special Files of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1807-1904*, M574; and *Documents Relating to the Negotiation of Ratified and Unratified Treaties with Various Indian Tribes, 1801-1869*, T494.

Records of other superintendencies available on microfilm are the following: Arizona, 1863-73, M734; Idaho, 1863-70, M832; Michigan, 1814-51, M1; Minnesota, 1849-56, M842; Montana, 1867-73, M833; Nevada, 1869-70, M837; New Mexico, 1849-80, T21; Oregon, 1848-73, M2; Utah, 1853-70, M834; Wisconsin, 1836-48,

M951; Central Superintendency, 1813-78; M856; and Southern Superintendency, 1832-70, M640.

Related records in the Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, RG 48, include *Letters Sent by the Indian Division of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, 1849-1903*, M606 and *Selected Classes of Letters Received by the Indian Division of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, 1849-1880*, M825.

Samella T. Anderson arranged the records for filming and wrote this introduction; Thomas Whitfield edited the introduction.

Commissioners of Indian Affairs

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
Orlando Brown	June 30, 1849
Luke Lea	July 1, 1850
George W. Manypenny	Mar. 24, 1853
James W. Denver	Apr. 17, 1857
Charles E. Mix	June 14, 1858
James W. Denver	Nov. 8, 1858
Alfred B. Greenwood	May 4, 1859
William P. Dole	Mar. 13, 1861
Dennis N. Cooley	July 10, 1865
Lewis V. Bogy	Nov. 1, 1866
Nathaniel G. Taylor	Mar. 29, 1867
Ely S. Parker	Apr. 21, 1869
Francis A. Walker	Nov. 21, 1871
Edward P. Smith	Mar. 20, 1873
John Q. Smith	Dec. 11, 1875

SUPERINTENDENTS AND AGENTS OF
THE NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY

Superintendents
1851-71

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
Elias Murray	Mar. 12, 1851
Francis Huebschmann	Apr. 18, 1853
William J. Cullen	May 13, 1857
Clark W. Thompson	Mar. 27, 1861
Edward P. Taylor	July 1, 1865
Hampton B. Denman	Oct. 29, 1866
Samuel M. Janney	Apr. 22, 1869
Barclay White	Oct. 1, 1871

Agents

Chippewa Agency
1856-61

David Herriman	Apr. 18, 1853
Cyrus K. Drew	Mar. 3, 1858
Joseph W. Lynde	Apr. 30, 1858
Lucius C. Walker	Mar. 23, 1861

Great Nemaha Agency
1865-76

John P. Burbank	Mar. 25, 1861
Chauncey H. Norris	Mar. 21, 1866
Thomas Lightfoot	Apr. 22, 1869
Charles H. Roberts	Sept. 8, 1873
Mahlon B. Kent	Feb. 26, 1875

Green Bay Agency
1849-56

Subagents

William H. Bruce	Apr. 2, 1849
George Lawe	Mar. 28, 1851
John V. Suydam	May 11, 1853
Ephraim Shaler	Feb. 21, 1855

Agent

Benjamin Hunkins	May 8, 1855
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La Pointe Agency
1858-65

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
John Watrous	Apr. 20, 1850
Cyrus K. Drew	Transferred from Chippewa Agency, July 19, 1858
Luther E. Webb	Mar. 23, 1861

Mackinac Agency
1851-52

Charles B. Babcock	Apr. 11, 1849
William Sprague	June 30, 1851

Omaha Agency
1864-76

Orsamus H. Irish	Apr. 30, 1861
Robert W. Furnas	Mar. 2, 1864
Lewis Lowry	Oct. 26, 1866
William P. Callon	Apr. 11, 1867
Edward Painter	Apr. 30, 1869
Theodore T. Gillingham	Sept. 30, 1873
Jacob Vore	July 10, 1876

Otoe Agency
1865-76

William Daily	Mar. 2, 1864
John L. Smith	May 31, 1866
Albert L. Green	Apr. 22, 1869
Jesse W. Griest	Apr. 1, 1873

Pawnee Agency
1865-76

Benjamin F. Lushbaugh	May 16, 1862
Daniel H. Wheeler	July 1, 1865
John P. Becker	Aug. 24, 1866
Charles H. Whaley	Apr. 20, 1867
Jacob M. Troth	Apr. 22, 1869
William Burgess	Jan. 1, 1873

Santee Sioux Agency
1866-76

Asa M. Janney	Apr. 22, 1869
Joseph Webster	June 29, 1871
Charles Searing	Aug. 27, 1875

Sault Ste. Marie Agency
1851-52

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
David Aitken	June 29, 1850

St. Peters Agency
1856-69

Richard G. Murphy	Apr. 18, 1853
Charles E. Flandreau	Aug. 13, 1856
Joseph R. Brown	Sept. 11, 1857
Thomas J. Galbraith	Mar. 23, 1861
St. A. D. Balcombe	Dec. 18, 1863
James M. Stone	Mar. 21, 1865
Asa M. Janney	Apr. 22, 1869

Upper Platte Agency
1865-68

John Loree	Apr. 14, 1862
Vital Jarrott	Mar. 3, 1865
Mathewson T. Patrick	Aug. 3, 1866

Whetstone Agency
1871-73

John M. Washburn	Oct. 18, 1870
D. R. Risley	Nov. 23, 1871
Edwin A. Howard	Mar. 24, 1873

Winnebago Agency
1856-76

Jonathan E. Fletcher	Apr. 18, 1853
Charles H. Mix	June 14, 1858
St. A. D. Balcombe	Mar. 27, 1861
Charles Mathewson	Sept. 7, 1865
George W. Wilkinson	Mar. 3, 1869
Howard White	June 9, 1869
Taylor Bradley	Sept. 1, 1873
Howard White	Sept. 4, 1875

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